

distillation column (11), and heating both column (33) and column 11).

34. Process according to Claim 18,

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A wherein the heat of reaction of the upstream reaction (for example a catalytic gas-phase oxidation of hydrocarbons) is used for heating at least one selected from the group consisting of the solvent distillation column (8), the distillation column (29), the acetic acid distillation column (5) and the formic acid distillation column (33).

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the Specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to related applications which has been inserted in page 1. Also pages 1, 4, 6 and 11 have been amended to recite the Specification section headings required by U.S. practice. Page 5 was amended to include a revision made in the International Office.

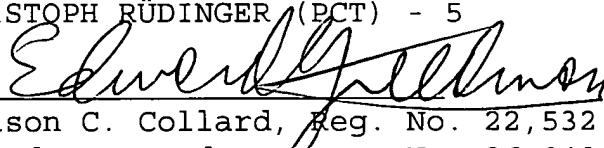
The amendments to the claims are to cancel the originally filed claims 1 to 17 without prejudice, and to rewrite these

claims as new claims 18 to 34, respectively. New claims 18 to 34 eliminate the multiple dependency of the claims, so as to avoid the U.S.P.T.O. surcharge therefor. Also claims 18 to 34 have been written so as to comply with U.S. formal requirements, and include changes made in the International Office.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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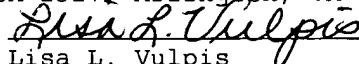
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Enclosure: (1) Abstract of the Disclosure.
(2) Marked-Up Version of Amended Specification pages
1, 4, 5, 6 and 11.

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to Box PCT, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.


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